



# Governance Gateway

December 2002

...information about Alberta's International Governance Office

**The International Governance Office (IGO) coordinates Alberta's public sector involvement in international development projects.**

## Summary of Mandate:

With a growing demand for the Alberta government to share its expertise with other countries undergoing government reforms, an International Governance Office was created to coordinate these requests.

The office encourages partnerships between government and Alberta's private sector to jointly participate in international development projects. It also acts as an information resource for international financial institutions with project opportunities, as well as for the Alberta government.

## IGO Advisory Committee:

Shiraz Shariff, MLA (Chair)

Moe Amery, MLA

LeRoy Johnson, MLA

Don Tannas, Deputy Speaker, MLA

Rory Campbell, Assistant Deputy Minister, Investment and Trade Division, Economic Development

Wayne Clifford, Assistant Deputy Minister, International Intergovernmental Relations

Aniko Parnell, Director, IGO

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*If you have any questions or comments in regard to the content and format of this newsletter, please contact us at (780) 427-6543.*

## Heilongjiang Executive Management Training Program

In July 2002, twenty-nine Heilongjiang government officials arrived in Alberta to begin executive management training at the University of Alberta. On the occasion of the Alberta-Heilongjiang 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary in September 2001, Premier Klein and Governor Song agreed that Alberta should become the training facility for senior Heilongjiang government officials in the area of public administration. Subsequently, on January 30, 2002, the Heilongjiang government, the University of Alberta (U of A), and International and Intergovernmental Relations signed a Memorandum of Understanding to formalize Premier Klein and Governor Song's agreement.

The six-month program included 5 months at the U of A studying English- as-a-second-language and public administration, and a one-month practicum placement in Alberta government ministries. The practicum placements were split into two segments; the first from October 1 to 11, and the second from November 12 to 22.

The 29 delegates were given the opportunity to learn about public administration principles based on the Canadian model, and to experience the day-to-day operations of the Alberta government. A total of 18 government departments were involved in the program. Apart from showing the delegates how departments functioned, many ministries also engaged the trainees with additional seminars and site tours.

The Graduation Ceremony for the Chinese trainees took place on December 10, 2002 at the Stollery Center of the U of A. The Honourable Halvar Jonson, Minister of International and Intergovernmental Relations, congratulated the 29 participants on their accomplishments and praised the University's efforts in delivering such a large-scale program in such a short period of time. He also acknowledged the extraordinary efforts of the 18 departments, which took time out of their busy schedules to mentor their Chinese counterparts.

The participants and the Heilongjiang government have indicated that the program was a great success. There are already discussions for a similar program for the Fall of 2003. This training of up-and-coming Heilongjiang decision-makers will benefit Alberta's long-term initiatives in China, as provincial officials from Heilongjiang are often recruited by the Chinese national government. This type of training program is but one step toward building a long-term relationship with China, and its future leaders.

## Upcoming Events

- January 13-14, 2003 – The IGO is organizing a series of information sessions on the structure and management of the Alberta government for the Heilongjiang Private Sector Group, who have been in Edmonton since August 2002.
- January 20-24, 2003 – An energy/treasury delegation from Mexico will be visiting Edmonton and Calgary to meet with provincial government representatives, stakeholder groups and private sector companies to learn about Alberta's energy regulation and royalty collection system.
- January 27-28, 2003 – Alberta Economic Development is organizing an Environmental Opportunities Workshop. The purpose of the workshop will be to better prepare Alberta environmental firms to pursue international opportunities, including projects funded by International Financial Institutions.

## **Recent IGO Project Activities**

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### **Canada-Ukraine Legislative and Intergovernmental Project (CULIP)**

In November 2002, Alberta organized a study tour for senior government and legislative officials from Ukraine under the fifth module of the CIDA-funded CULIP. The delegation met with Alberta government and municipal officials to examine Alberta's health system, and in particular the issue of patient rights. A few of the topics that were discussed during the visit included: the role of the patient relations section of the Capital Health Authority; clinical ethics; the Protection of Persons in Care Act; the Health Information Act; and living wills. The delegation undertook several tours (Henwood Treatment Centre; University Hospital), and met with a number of Alberta Ministers. The head of the delegation (a neurosurgeon) was given the opportunity to witness a craniotomy at the University Hospital's modern surgical facilities.

### **Asian Development Bank (ADB) Seminars**

On November 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> of 2002, the IGO, Economic Development and the International Trade Centre organized an information seminar on how to successfully track and bid for ADB funded business opportunities in the Asia Pacific region. Two senior officials from the Central Operations Service Office of the ADB, Mr. Thuraisingham, Director, Consulting Services Division and Mr. Rothery, Principal Procurement Specialist, provided presentations to an audience of approximately 30 people at Government House in Edmonton.

The opening plenary, which provided some general background information on the ADB, was moderated by Shiraz Shariff, MLA. Following lunch, attendees had the choice to attend two parallel workshops. One was dedicated to describing all aspects associated with the recruitment of consultants (including the new Quality Cost Based Selection method which calls for an evaluation of proposals on the basis of both technical and financial merits). The other workshop was focused on criteria associated with the supply of goods or works. The second day consisted of individual appointments with the ADB officials.

Feedback from workshop attendees and ADB representatives was positive, with both expressing the view that there is definite potential for more Alberta companies to work in conjunction with the ADB.

### **China National School of Administration (CNSA)–Roundtable**

On October 24, 2002, delegates from the Chinese National School of Administration visited Alberta as part of a two-week cross-Canada study tour to examine western public administration techniques. In August 2001, the University of Alberta entered into a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the CNSA to train key Chinese public servants in public administration.

CNSA officials attended a Deputy Minister Roundtable at Government House where they were given the opportunity to learn about the role of Western Economic Diversification, the operations and structure of the Alberta government and WTO dispute mechanisms.

The visit was aimed at assisting China with its reform efforts to comply with WTO requirements and move toward a more market-oriented system. Senior officials at CNSA have indicated that in 2003 they would like to begin a similar program in North American public administration in Edmonton.

### **CIDA International Development Days**

The Canadian International Development Agency's (CIDA) International Development Days was held in Vancouver from October 2-4, 2002. Mr. Shiraz Shariff, MLA represented the Government of Alberta, accompanied by Aniko Parnell, Director of the IGO; and Shane Jaffer, International Markets, IFI Coordinator, Economic Development.

Mr. Shariff moderated the session on "Public-Private Partnerships in International Development" organized by the IGO. Speakers at the session included Mr. Karti Sandilya, Regional representative for the Asian Development Bank; Val Larsen, President of the Alberta Center for International Education; Kent Wiley, President, Canora Asia Incorporated; and Aniko Parnell.

The conference provided an excellent opportunity to showcase the Alberta model of successful private/public partnerships in international development.

## **Alberta Economic Development IFI Activities**

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### **Environmental Mission to Texas**

From October 9-11, 2002, Alberta Economic Development and the International Trade Centre organized a mission of four Alberta companies to Texas to explore environmental opportunities with the US Air Force and the TEX MEX Border Environmental Region. The mission included a business opportunities seminar hosted by multilateral development banks including the World Bank, Inter-American Development Bank and the North American Development Bank.

### **Central Europe: Your Gateway to East and West**

The Department of Foreign Affairs and International Trade in partnership with Export Development Canada, International Trade Centre and Alberta Economic Development organized a session on December 5, 2002 to increase the profile of Central Europe and highlight the many services provided by government departments to exporter/investors. Those who wanted to discuss specific issues did so in one-on-one meetings following the formal presentations.